

ED-210

K-6

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
Washington, DC 20423

OFFICE OF ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND ADMINISTRATION

June 10, 2005

Mr. Josef J. Warhank  
Review and Compliance Officer  
Montana Historical Society  
State Historic Preservation Office  
1410 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
P.O. Box 201202  
Helena, MT 59620-1202

Re: AB-6 (Sub-No. 424X) – The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company  
- Abandonment Exemption – in Dawson and McCone Counties, Montana  
Montana SHPO Project: #2003123002

Dear Mr. Warhank:

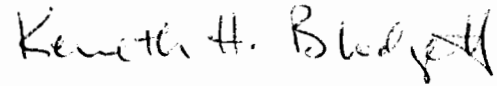
The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) filed a petition for exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) on October 18, 2004, to abandon rail line in the above-referenced proceeding. In response to BNSF's notification to you regarding this proposed abandonment and BNSF's submission to you of additional information, you wrote to Mr. Sidney Strickland on April 8, 2005, indicating that you believed the line to have sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is the office within the Board responsible for conducting the environmental review process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). As the SEA staff person assigned to this case, I am writing to you to initiate the consultation process pursuant to the regulations implementing Section 106 of NHPA.

I look forward to working with you, and with BNSF, to seek ways to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects resulting from the proposed abandonment. Thank you for your assistance as we

fulfill our obligations under Section 106 for this case. My telephone is (202) 565-1554 and the fax number for my office is (202) 565-9000.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kenneth H. Blodgett". The signature is written in a cursive style with some capital letters.

Kenneth H. Blodgett  
Section of Environmental Analysis

cc: Mr. John Sims, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company  
Mr. Don L. Klima, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation